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EDITOR'S MISCELLANY



SUFFRAGE FOR TAXPAYING WOMEN

THE New York Senate recently passed, by a vote of twenty-seven to fourteen, the bill empowering women taxpayers in townships and villages to vote upon all tax propositions. The bill has passed the lower house in three successive Legislatures by heavy majorities,—one year unanimously,—but has hitherto always failed in the Senate.

New York is the third State to grant suffrage to taxpaying women. Montana was the first, Louisiana the second.

The vote in New York is only the extension to all the towns and villages of the State of a right which the women in half a dozen New York cities of the third class have already possessed for years under special municipal charters, and which has been found to have no bad results.

WHEN we receive a letter like the one below from a nurse whose name is entirely strange to us, we feel rewarded for the hours of hard drudgery that we are obliged to spend over each number of the JOURNAL.—[Ed.]

“DEAR JOURNAL: Another subscriber is added to your list of admirers. You are such a comfort to us all, we look for your coming with increased interest after every issue.

“I have been especially interested in the paper on the subject of ‘Ethics,’ and hope there are more of the same kind to follow.

“F. D. F.”

32 WEST GENESEE STREET, BUFFALO, April 15, 1901.

DEAR EDITOR: I have read with much pleasure Miss McIsaac's article on “Ethics in Nursing” in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING for April.

It is a subject on which all conscientious superintendents of training-schools must feel great responsibility. During the time that I occupied that position I found it the most difficult and anxious part of the superintendent's duties.

I am sorry to say that the root of many of our nursing failures lies with those people of position who write glowing recommendations of candidates for training whom they know to be unfit for such a trust.

The good-natured people who cannot say “no,” and whose names should be and are considered a guarantee of the applicant's moral fitness, have much to answer for.

A superintendent cannot be omniscient, and I have known of women of more than doubtful character who have succeeded in leading a double life during their training, and have received a diploma which was the key to the homes of countless unsuspecting families.

I would urge all superintendents to make no decision in regard to applicants without a more searching examination of their fitness than the simple endorsement of the application form.

I believe that most hospitals have a clause in their rules to the effect that "all communications between nurses, patients, and physicians must be strictly professional and in no wise social."

This is one of the rules which has been under much discussion pro and con as to its advisability. With young physicians and male patients, and a certain element present in all schools, the rule is regarded as one made to be broken. Yet the spirit of it is most essential to the welfare of the nurses and the standing of the training-school.

It seems to me that this subject should be laid before each pupil as she enters, with the understanding that its wilful disregard would mean expulsion from the school.

Can anything be done further by the superintendent, except to trust to the honor of her pupils to keep this rule?

I would like very much to hear from present and ex-superintendents of training-schools, in the hope of learning if any have found a way to solve this most serious problem. I feel sure it is still confronting many a superintendent and imperilling the standing of our schools and their graduates.

Sincerely yours,

LOIS MASTIN DIEHL.

MISS NINA LUTTRELL, who has been in Cuba for some time, has recently accepted the position of night supervisor at the Mercedes Hospital, Havana, Cuba.

THE medical and nursing staff of the Pan-American Hospital has been appointed by Dr. Roswell Park as follows:

MEDICAL OFFICERS.—Dr. N. W. Wilson, sanitary officer; Dr. Zittel, Dr. Edward Mann, Dr. Simpson, Dr. Ellis, Dr. Bixbee, ambulance.

NURSES.—Miss Adella Walters, in charge; Miss Minnie Van Enery, assistant; Mrs. Hassellberg, Presbyterian Hospital, New York; Miss Lichenstein, New Orleans Hospital; Miss Haynes, Buffalo Woman's Hospital; Miss Dodge, Chicago Baptist Hospital.

PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION

It may be of interest to readers of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING who intend to visit Buffalo in the near future to learn something of the great Exposition and what it may cost to reach that city. Beginning with May 1, it can truly be said that "all roads lead to Buffalo," and a very nominal uniform rate has been made by all railroads,—viz.: one and one-quarter fares from any point.

As there are about thirty roads entering Buffalo, it will be a very easy matter to decide by what route to travel from any part of the country. The Nurses' Association of Buffalo, with Miss Annie Damer, president and chairman

of the Committee of Local Arrangements, will arrange for a head-quarters for registration, from which all delegates and visitors can be assigned stopping-places while in the city. It is expected to have members of the association meet incoming trains and facilitate matters for strangers.

The beauties of the Pan-American Exposition can scarcely be expressed in ordinary language, and must be seen to be appreciated.

It is instructive, as well as having many amusing features, and the electrical exhibition far surpasses anything seen at the Paris Exposition we are told by those who were abroad last year.

The Emergency Hospital is complete and in full running order, with its quota of nurses and doctors. A great deal of interest has been aroused in our country among nurses recently, and we hope that large numbers will attend the Congress of Nurses during the week of September and also the great Pan-American Exposition.

EMMA J. KEATING.

MARRIED.

IN Richmond, April 30, 1901, Miss Grace L. Denzler to Dr. J. Ryland Hudnall, of Botetourt County, Virginia. Mrs. Hudnall is a graduate of the Old Dominion Hospital, and was for the past three years associated with the C. and O. Railway Hospital, Clifton Forge, Virginia.

